

Public Notice – Environmental Project

PURPOSE OF NOTICE:

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed project in the City of Chesapeake, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

January 22, 2013 to February 5, 2013

TYPE OF RESPONSE:

Federal Consistency Certification

DEQ is reviewing a proposed federal permitting activity to determine if it is consistent with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCP) established pursuant to the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The VCP seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT:

DOD/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is reviewing an application (NAO-2001-4137) from Enviva Port of Chesapeake, LLC (Enviva) for an individual permit required pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for proposed impacts to jurisdictional Waters of the United States from the Enviva Port of Chesapeake maintenance dredging in the City of Chesapeake. Enviva proposes to mechanically dredge approximately 20,000 cubic yards of material from an area measuring 200 feet wide by 950 feet long. This area was last maintenance dredged to a depth of -38 feet below mean low water (MLW) in August 2008. Enviva is proposing to dredge this area to an absolute depth of -42 feet below MLW to accommodate larger ships. The purpose of this project is to continue to provide Enviva, a biomass fuels company, the necessary deep water access to export wood chips and pellets. The proposed project will remain within the previously authorized dredge footprint but will be four feet deeper. Incorporating dredging best management practices, including not exceeding the capacity of the clamshell bucket or the receiving barge, will further minimize impacts. Enviva has submitted a Federal Consistency Certification that finds the proposed project consistent with the enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

HOW TO COMMENT:

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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